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For Immediate Release

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**PERFORMING ARTS FORT WORTH ANNOUNCES 2024-2025
IRWIN STEEL POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT SERIES LINEUP
*TICKETS ON SALE NOW!***

FORT WORTH, Texas (July 12, 2024) – Performing Arts Fort Worth, the non-profit owner and operator of Bass Performance Hall, announced today five new shows in the 2024-2025 lineup for the **Irwin Steel Popular Entertainment Series**. This also marks the beginning of a new partnership between Performing Arts Fort Worth and Irwin Steel, who will serve as the title sponsor for the Popular Entertainment Series.

Previously announced, the 2024-2025 lineup kicks off with **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band’s All The Good Times: The Farewell Tour**, taking the Bass Hall stage for one night only on July 27; and returning to the Hall is Fort Worth favorite **Lyle Lovett and His Large Band** on October 22.

New to the series, the chart-topping **Mariachi Herencia de México** makes their Bass Hall debut on October 8 with an evening of music and culture in their show **Our Latin Thing (Nuestra Cosa)**. The new year brings a rip-roaring, soulful show portraying the life of an American icon in **The Music of Sam Cooke** on January 20.

At McDavid Studio, an intimate performance space with a state-of-the-art sound system, blues guitarist and singer-songwriter **Monte Montgomery** returns on October 12. Then ring in the most wonderful time of the year at **Holidays with the UNT One O’Clock Lab Band**, returning December 6, followed by the award-winning ensemble’s annual **UNT One O’Clock Lab Band Spring Showcase** May 2.

“As we look forward to this lineup, we are excited to welcome Irwin Steel as the title sponsor for the Popular Entertainment Series,” said Performing Arts Fort Worth President & CEO Dione Kennedy. “This year’s series hosts artists who are no stranger to Fort Worth while also welcoming acts that represent the diverse and growing population we serve. We are so grateful to all of our sponsors, patrons and community for their continued support.”

Individual tickets to these newly announced shows are on sale now online at www.basshall.com and by phone at 817-212-4280. The Performing Arts Fort Worth (PAFW) box office hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm and Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm. For group sales discounts please visit www.basshall.com/groups. Additional show information is available at www.basshall.com/popularentertainment.

THE NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND'S ALL THE GOOD TIMES: THE FAREWELL TOUR
(July 27, 2024, at Bass Performance Hall)

For nearly six decades, the three-time Grammy® Award-winning **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** has entertained audiences with their top-shelf musicianship and timeless hits such as “Mr. Bojangles,” “Long Hard Road (The Sharecropper’s Dream),” “Modern Day Romance” and “Fishin’ in the Dark.” Now the time has come for the band who has carried a torch for American country and roots music to say so long to the highways and byways they’ve crossed an unimaginable number of times throughout their career. This isn’t goodbye forever, but it will be the last fans see of multi-city runs and long bus rides.

The **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** trades on a mix of reimagined classics and compelling newer works. The group formed in 1966 as a Long Beach, California jug band, scored its first charting single in 1967, and embarked on a self-propelled ride through folk, country, rock ‘n’ roll, pop, blue-grass, and the amalgam now known as “Americana.” Was this a cutting-edge combo or a group of revivalists? Was the goal rebellion or musical piety? Yes, to all these things.

Throughout the group’s lifetime, personnel has changed, with each change resulting in positive steps forward, new ways of playing the old songs, and renewed enthusiasm for writing and recording fresh material. The latest Dirt Band lineup is expanded to six members for the first time since 1968. Today’s group consists of founding member Jeff Hanna, harp master Jimmie Fadden (who joined in 1966), and soulful-voiced Bob Carpenter, who has more than 40 years of service in the ensemble. Those veterans are now joined by singer-songwriter-bass man Jim Photoglo, fiddle and mandolin wizard Ross Holmes, and Hanna’s son, the preternaturally talented singer and guitarist Jaime Hanna.

Tickets to **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band’s All The Good Times: The Farewell Tour** went on sale January 26; Remaining inventory is limited.

MARIACHI HERENCIA DE MÉXICO – OUR LATIN THING (NUESTRA COSA)
(October 8, 2024, at Bass Performance Hall)

Hailing from Chicago, 2x Latin Grammy®-nominated **Mariachi Herencia de México** has issued five chart-topping albums and has performed across North America, paving the way for a new generation of mariachi musicians. *Nuestra Herencia*, their 2017 debut album, topped the Latin streaming charts and earned the band their first Latin Grammy® nomination for Best Ranchero/Mariachi Album. 2018’s *Herencia de la Tierra Mía* and the two-volume series, *Esencia* and *Esencia, Vol. 2* issued in 2019 and 2020, charted all major streaming platforms and industry charts. 2022’s *Herederos* received a 2023 Latin Grammy® nomination for Best Ranchero/Mariachi Album. The young, virtuosic band is composed of 14 musicians, ages 18-32, representing a new bicultural generation in the U.S.

In their sixth studio release, *Our Latin Thing (Nuestra Cosa)*, the group pushes the boundaries of traditional mariachi music. Simultaneously honoring the past, celebrating the present, and creating the future of mariachi music, **Mariachi Herencia de México** presents an electrifying and unforgettable night of Mexican music and culture.

MONTE MONTGOMERY (October 12, 2024, at McDavid Studio)

Hailing originally from Birmingham, Alabama, guitarist and singer-songwriter **Monte Montgomery** has proudly called Texas home since he moved to the Lone Star State at the age of 12 in 1979.

The Austin-based six-stringer first gained notoriety in 1999, when as a relatively unknown talent he delivered a jaw-dropping live performance on an episode of the PBS series *Austin City Limits*. He has been named one of the “Top 50 All-Time Greatest Guitar Players” By *Guitar Player Magazine*, has won the “Best Acoustic Guitar Player” Award at the *Austin Chronicle*’s Austin Music Awards seven years in a row. He has also composed music for the FOX TV series *Last Man Standing*.

LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND (October 22, 2024, at Bass Performance Hall)

A singer, composer and actor, **Lyle Lovett** has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of

Americana, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers. Whether touring as a 'Duo' or with his 'Acoustic Group' or 'The Large Band', Lovett's live performances show not only the breadth of this Texas legend's deep talents, but also the diversity of his influences, making him one of the most infectious and fascinating musicians in popular music. Since his self-titled debut in 1986, Lyle Lovett has evolved into one of music's most vibrant and iconic performers. His oeuvre, rich and eclectic, is one of the most beloved of any living artist working today.

Lovett is a four-time Grammy Award® winner including Best Country Album, Best Country Duo/Group with Vocal, Best Pop Vocal Collaboration and Best Country Male Vocal.

Tickets to **Lyle Lovett and his Large Band** went on sale May 10; Remaining inventory is limited.

HOLIDAYS WITH THE ONE O'CLOCK LAB BAND (December 6, 2024, at McDavid Studio)

Jazz up your holidays with the **University of North Texas' One O'Clock Lab Band!** The Grammy®-nominated jazz ensemble returns to the intimate McDavid Studio for its annual "Holidays with the One O'Clock" concert. Celebrate the yuletide season as the One O'Clock's big band takes on all of your favorite holiday anthems.

THE MUSIC OF SAM COOKE (January 20, 2025, at Bass Performance Hall)

The Music of Sam Cooke starring Bradd Marquis: A fantastic new show depicting the life and music of one of America's most iconic and talented performers, the Legendary Sam Cooke. A rip-roaring soulful performance brought to you alongside a live big band.

This world premiere concert features the greatest hits from the Legend of Soul including "You Send Me", "Only Sixteen", "Cupid", "Chain Gang", "Twistin the Night Away", "A Change is Gonna Come", "Wonderful World" to name a few. Beginning with the gospel music that formed the foundation of Sam Cooke's career, and spanning his success as a pop star, its pure magic from beginning to end. He is "Forever Mr. Soul".

ONE O'CLOCK LAB BAND'S SPRING SHOWCASE (May 2, 2025, at McDavid Studio)

Seven Grammy® nominations! Multitudes of great composers, performers, and educators all throughout the music world. Over 60 recordings and a tradition that just keeps swingin'... **The One O'Clock Lab Band** returns to McDavid Studio for their spring showcase to close out the series.

About Irwin Steel

An AISC-certified steel fabricator with the AISC Sophisticated Paint Endorsement, Irwin Steel LLC is a premier fabricator of structural and miscellaneous steel. With more than 65 years of experience building standard and specialized structures, from hospitals to football stadiums, with many large-scale projects in between, Irwin Steel excels at design coordination working in tandem with architects and engineers. With a focus on quality and excellence, the company's commitment to its customers, employees and continuous improvement has helped it become the one of the largest structural steel fabricators in Texas. For more information about Irwin Steel, visit www.irwinsteel.net.

About Performing Arts Fort Worth

For over 25 years, the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall has been a Fort Worth icon and nationally distinguished performing arts venue. Built entirely with private funds, the Hall's mission is to serve as a permanent home to the major performing arts organizations of Fort Worth and as a premier venue for other attractions to enhance the range, quality and accessibility of cultural fare available to the public; to promulgate arts education; and to contribute to the cultural life of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and the region.

Bass Performance Hall is the permanent home to the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Texas Ballet Theater, Fort Worth Opera, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the Cliburn. Each resident company operates independently from Performing Arts Fort Worth and manages its own programming schedule at Bass Hall.

Performing Arts Fort Worth, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates Bass Hall, also presents national touring Broadway productions under the Broadway at the Bass Series presented by PNC Bank, as well as intimate concerts, holiday specials and family entertainment in the Irwin Steel Popular Entertainment Series.

The 2,042-seat multipurpose Hall is characteristic of the classic European opera house form. An 80-foot diameter Great Dome tops the Founders Concert Theater while two 48-foot-tall angels grace the Grand Facade. Since the Hall opened in May 1998, the angels have become preeminent cultural icons of the Dallas-Fort Worth community.

In addition to Bass Performance Hall, Performing Arts Fort Worth also owns and operates the Maddox-Muse Center, a complex that includes McDavid Studio, the Van Cliburn Recital Hall and various facilities that support an array of performances and special events. With state-of-the-art acoustics and atmospheric lighting, McDavid Studio is a versatile studio space perfect for intimate concerts and performances hosting audiences of around 250-300. A multipurpose performance space ideal for hosting any number of events, the Van Cliburn Recital Hall was built in mind for the resident companies of Bass Performance Hall to utilize for rehearsal and commercial use.